

To Committee Chair Representative Moller and members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Dick and I am a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. I am writing in support of HF 4300 and HF 601. The safe storage and lost & stolen firearms bills are important legislation that will make Minnesotan safer and reduce the risk of firearm violence, especially for children.

While there is plenty of national research showing broad bipartisan support for gun safety laws, I can also attest to the fact that many Minnesotans – Democrats, Republicans, and everyone in between – are in favor of these specific bills. I volunteered in the east metro suburbs this past fall, canvassing voters to ask their opinions on recent and upcoming gun legislation. We had in-depth conversations about their questions, concerns, and personal stories related to guns and I was fortunate to learn a lot from people with extensive hunting and military experience. Over 85% of the voters we talked to, which included a nearly even split between Democrats and Republicans, were in support of passing safe storage and mandatory reporting of lost or stolen firearms laws. Many people said, “Isn’t that a law already?”

Although many responsible gun owners already follow those practices, not everyone does, and those accidents that ensue can lead to tragic outcomes for children. Like many others, I was horrified by the news last fall that a two-year-old child was shot by his four-year-old brother who found an unsecured, loaded gun in their family’s car. Changing our laws to promote high standards of gun safety for all individuals with access to firearms is an important step towards reducing accidental deaths and making our state safer for everyone.

Thank you,

Rachel Dick  
Minneapolis, MN